



STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

BOARD OF FINANCE

ROBERT K. PAGANI
Chairman

REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2006

RICHARD J. CLEARY
ROBERT J. CLEMENTS
MARK A. JOYSE
BARRY C. PINTO
ALBERT S. WACHSMAN

Board of Finance Members Present: Robert Pagani-Chairman, Robert Clements, Mark Joyse, Barry Pinto, Albert Wachsman

Board of Finance Members Absent: Richard Cleary

Others Present: M. Stupinski-First Sel, Charter, Miller, Prichard-Selectmen, N. DiCorleto-Fin Officer, G. Daigle-Bud Advisory, Dr. Packman-Supt of Schools, D. Roberson-BOE Chmn, A. Littizzio, M. Varney-EVFD Chief, P. Hany-Pres EVAC, C. Pippin-Chief CLFD, A. Lawrence-Fire Marshal, P. Michaud-DPW Dir, R. Tedford-P&R Dir, Residents and Reporter.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:14 pm.

Citizens Forum

Board of Education chairman Roberson stated that the \$1.1 million cut so far has been devastating and that the Board of Education cannot absorb any more cuts. He asked that they be spared any further cuts this evening.

Mr. Pagani corrected the BOE chairman on the cut. They include the \$80,000 for computers which was not cut but only moved to another area of the budget.

Mr. Willette of Boulder Ridge asked that town services be cut so that residents feel the impact of voting against the budget. Their group has worked hard to try to preserve the school system. He feels that government departments should be cut also.

Mrs. Willis stated that taxes are increasing and senior citizens on fixed incomes are having a hard time finding the ability to pay these increases.

Peter Charter asked that the FEMA grants be given back to the departments that spent the funds. Mr. Pagani stated that the departments need to come to the Board of Finance for reimbursements for the money spent. The funds go into the general fund which is the correct procedure. Mr. Charter stated that he felt it was like an insurance item and that the Board of Selectmen is responsible for it. Mr. Pagani told him to check the charter.

Lisa Sirag stated that she felt for the people on fixed incomes and doesn't know why the parents do not support this budget. She asked the Board of Finance to remember the children.

Deliberations

Chairman Pagani listed the proposed cuts – Brookside Fencing \$29,400, Police Cruiser \$31,215, EVFD Hose Upgrade \$10,000, EHS Back Lot Fence \$27,600, EHS Dual Fuel Burners \$40,000, EHS Track Restoration \$39,000, Town Clerk Salary account \$10,000, Building Dept overtime \$3,000, GIS System \$30,000, add back State Police Computers \$3,215, restore fuel funds PWD \$4,500 and BOE \$45,500 and cut \$200,000 from BOE.

Mr. Wachsman felt that the Board of Education cut should only be \$50,000 and asked what the Board's goal for this next referendum should be.

Mr. Joyse stated that he would like to see minimal cuts made.

Mr. Clements stated that some years back before he was a member of the board he remembers reading in the newspaper that one of the members at that time suggested sending the budget back to the voters without reducing it. He felt that it was not the right thing to do and that is what made him want to become involved. He feels that the reduction should be fairly distributed between the general government and Board of Education. He feels that the Town government budget would pass on its own. The BOE is 70% of the budget. He also stated that he was the one that made the calls to see if the school supporters could get the budget voted in at the last town meeting. He just wanted to get the budget passed. He felt that the people that knew the most about the process are the ones that come to the meeting. He feels that the present suggested reduction to the BOE budget in the amount of \$200,000 is good and fair.

Mr. Pinto supports the reduction and asked if the \$60,000 for the Pinney St. roundabout could be taken out. Mr. Pagani suggested leaving it in because now the State is involved and the costs will be going up because of that. It is also a safety issue.

Mr. Pagani stated that he appreciated their feelings for the Board of Education budget, but in all fairness all budgets have to be reduced. He read some statistics from 2003 showing the the Town of Ellington BOE budgets were comparable with state averages but that the general government was considerably below state average. He felt that passing the town budget at the town meeting was not fair to others that did not attend the meeting and without fair warning. He also stated that the next step, if further cuts have to be taken, will be closing parks and curtailing services. Minimal reductions will not get this budget passed.

MOTION (WACHSMAN) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND DEFEATED TO CHANGE THE CUT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FROM \$200,000 TO \$100,000.

Mr. Joyse suggested putting \$75,000 back into the proposed reductions on both sides.
Mr. Pinto and Mr. Clements agreed with the cuts as proposed.

**VOTE ON MOTION – AYES: JOYSE, WACHSMAN
NAYS: PAGANI, PINTO, CLEMENTS**

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED TO REDUCE THE PROPOSED 2006/07 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET BY THE FOLLOWING: BROOKSIDE PARK FENCING \$29,400, POLICE CRUISER \$31,215, EVFD HOSE UPGRADE \$10,000, EHS BACK LOT FENCE \$27,600, EHS DUAL FUEL BURNERS \$40,000, EHS TRACK RESTORATION \$39,000.

**VOTE: AYES: CLEMENTS, PINTO, PAGANI, WACHSMAN
NAYS: JOYSE**

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED TO REDUCE THE BUILDING DEPT OPERATING BUDGET BY \$3,000, TOWN CLERK SALARY BUDGET BY \$10,000 AND GIS SYSTEM BY \$30,000 FOR 2006/07 BUDGET.

**VOTE: AYES: CLEMENTS, PINTO, PAGANI, WACHSMAN
NAYS: JOYSE**

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD BACK STATE POLICE COMPUTERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,215 FOR 2006/07 BUDGET.

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RESTORE UNUSED FUEL FUNDS TOTALING \$50,000 (DPW \$4,500 AND BOE \$45,500) FOR 2006/07 BUDGET.

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED TO REDUCE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION LINE ITEM BY \$200,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006/07.

**VOTE: AYES: CLEMENTS, PINTO, PAGANI
NAYS: JOYSE, WACHSMAN**

New Business

Chairman Pagani suggested that the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance invite the state elected officials to a meeting to discuss financing of state budgets.

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO HOLD A MEETING WITH STATE OFFICIALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING STATE FUNDING FOR TOWN BUDGETS.

Chairman called a recess at 9:30 pm.
Chairman reconvened the meeting at 9:50 pm.

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO OPEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION REDUCTION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

Mr. Joyse suggested that \$35,000 be added back into the Board of Education to soften the blow. This is the amount of a first level teacher. All agreed it was a good compromise.

MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (WACHSMAN) AND PASSED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE REDUCTION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION BE CHANGED FROM \$200,000 TO \$165,000 FOR FY 2006/07.

**VOTES: AYES: JOYSE, WACHSMAN, PINTO, PAGANI
NAYS: CLEMENTS**

Final Motions

Approval of Fiscal Year Budget 2006-07

MOVED (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE SUM OF MONEY RECOMMENDED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-07 IS \$39,189,991. ALL EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANTS (ECS) ARE DEEMED TO BE APPROPRIATED TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

TO RECOMMEND TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 9,701,157
REDEMPTION OF DEBT	3,178,138
CONTINGENCY FUND	147,000
BOARD OF EDUCATION	25,273,265
CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND	<u>890,431</u>
	\$ 39,189,991

**TO RECOMMEND TO A TOWN MEETING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$890,431
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-07 FOR THE CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND,
SAID APPROPRIATION TO FUND THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:**

UNIMPROVED ROAD IMPROVEMENT	80,000
LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	101,431
ROAD OVERLAY	300,000
WINDERMERE RD/PINNEY ST ROUNDABOUT	60,000
WINDERMERE BRIDGE ENGINEERING	45,000
TOWNWIDE SIDEWALKS	30,000
DPW-SMALL DUMP TRUCK REPLACEMENT (1)	40,000
EVAC-TRAINING/EMERG RESPONSE VEHICLE	50,000
EVAC-DEFIBRILLATORS/CPR EQUIPMENT	11,000
EVAC-LAPTOP COMPUTERS FOR AMBULANCE	22,000
ELFD-HOSE TOWN REBUILT	18,000
BOE-REPLACEMENT VANS SPECIAL ED (2)	50,000
BOE-WIND SOFFIT REPAIR/PAINTING	30,000
BOE-EHS VIDEO PRODUCTION LAB	53,000
	<u>\$ 890,431</u>
LESS FEDERAL/STATE/TRUST FUNDS	
STATE GRANT-LOCIP	101,431
STATE GRANT-OPM SUPPLMT ED NEEDS	25,000
AMBULANCE FEE PROGRAM	83,000
NET COST TO TOWN	<u>\$ 681,000</u>

Adjournment

**MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (CLEMENTS) AND PASSED TO AJOURN THE
MEETING AT 9:55 PM.**

Submitted by


Lori Smith, Clerk